sand stones left by the rivers in Uttar Pradesh, whereas contracts are being awarded for the same work in the foot hill areas;

(b) whether public and private works have been affected by this but it has also become a new source of corruption; if so, whether the Government would look into this problem and make an appropriate arrangement for picking of sand stones of rivers; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) As per the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, rules and guidelines for lifting of the sand stones, etc. from the river beds located within forest areas (including hilly and plain terrain); prior approval of the Central Government is required.

(b) and (c) Three proposals for collection of sand stones and boulders, etc. from the river beds in the forest area has been received from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh during 1999. The proposal pertaining to District Haldwani has been approved on 18.11.1999 and the proposal of District Pauri was rejected on 8.10.1999 in the interest of wildlife and its habitat. The proposal of District Dehradun was found incomplete and therefore returned to the State Government on 8.7.99.

Publication of a status paper on wild-life sanctuaries

1011. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to publish a status paper on every bird sanctuary, tiger reserves, project tigers and other wildlife, sanctuary in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Ministry of Environment & Forests has published a status report on National Parks and Sanctuaries of the country. Detailed Directories of National Parks and Sanctuaries for Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh and Andaman & Nicobar Islands have also been published.

Population of Senior Citizens

1012. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the population of aged persons beyond 60 this year and that expected till the next 10 years; and